

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 221539

15

ORIGIN SNM-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00

INR-07 JUSE-00 NSAE-00 TRSE-00 USIA-06 NSC-05 OES-06

OMB-01 SS-15 DODE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 L-03 H-02

/087 R

DRAFTED BY S/NM:MLAWRENCE:OSG

APPROVED BY S/NM:SBVANCE

IO/HDC:JBUCZACKI

EUR/SE:ESMITH

DEA:MANTONELLI

D:WDRUMMOND

S/S-APSHANKLE

----- 017650

R 080051Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 221539

E.O. 11652' GDS

TAGS: SNAR, TU

SUBJ: SEIZURE IN EGYPT OF ALLEGED TURKISH OPIUM

1. JACK ANDERSON COLUMN IN WASHINGTON POST FOR SEPTEMBER 3 DESCRIBED SEIZURE IN JUNE BY EGYPTIAN AUTHORITIES OF 270 POUNDS OF OPIUM THAT HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN TRANSPORTED FROM A TURKISH PORT.

2. ANDERSON COLUMN STATED THAT THIS WAS THE LARGEST SEIZURE IN THE ALEXANDRIA AREA IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS. COLUMN THEN STATED, "MORE IMPORTANT, IT IS EVIDENCE THAT
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 221539

TURKISH OPIUM IN LARGE QUANTITIES IS FINDING ITS WAY INTO

THE ILLEGAL WORLD MARKET. THE U.S. DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, IN AN UNPUBLISHED ASSESSMENT, HAS AGREED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS THAT TURKISH CONTROLS WORKED REASONABLY WELL THIS PAST YEAR. BUT THE DEA QUESTIONED WHETHER TURKEY WOULD BE ABLE TO POLICE THE 117,200 ACRES, ALMOST TRIPLE THE LAST CROP, THAT WAS AUTHORIZED FOR 1976. UNFORTUNATELY, THE QUESTION CANNOT BE ANSWERED UNTIL APRIL 1977. BY THAT TIME, THE HEROIN COULD BE ON ITS WAY TO THE STREETS OF AMERICA."

3. THE FOLLOWING QUESTION AND ANSWER PREPARED, IF-ASKED BASIS, FOR DEPARTMENT'S PRESS BRIEFING SEPTEMBER 3:

"QUESTION: IN HIS COLUMN TODAY, JACK ANDERSON REPORTED ON AN EGYPTIAN SEIZURE OF 270 POUNDS OF OPIUM THAT HAD REPORTEDLY BEEN TRANSPORTED FROM A TURKISH PORT. WOULD YOU HAVE ANY COMMENT ON THIS, SPECIFICALLY ON WHETHER THE OPIUM WAS FROM TURKISH CULTIVATION?

"ANSWER: WE ARE AWARE OF THIS SEIZURE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT EVIDENCE SO FAR AVAILABLE DOES NOT ESTABLISH WHERE OR WHEN THIS OPIUM WAS PRODUCED. THE TURKISH OFFICIALS HAVE REPEATEDLY STATED THAT THEIR CONTROL SYSTEM IS EFFECTIVE. THE UN OFFICIALS WORKING WITH THE TURKISH GOVERNMENT IN CONNECTION WITH THIS CONTROL SYSTEM SUPPORT THOSE STATEMENTS, AND WE KNOW OF NO EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY."

4. THE QUESTION WAS NOT RAISED AT THE SEPTEMBER 3 BRIEFING. HOWEVER, THE DEPARTMENT HAS LEARNED THAT INFORMATION CONCERNING THIS SEIZURE WILL BE REQUESTED OF DEPUTY SECRETARY ROBINSON WHEN HE TESTIFIES ON SEPTEMBER 27 BEFORE THE NEWLY CREATED HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON NARCOTICS, CHAIRED BY CONGRESSMAN LESTER WOLFF.

5. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO DISCUSS THE REPORTED SHIPMENT WITH GOT AUTHORITIES IN EFFORT TO OBTAIN FURTHER INFORMATION ON ORIGIN OF SHIPMENT IN QUESTION. THE IMPLICATION IN ANDERSON ARTICLE IS THAT OPIUM FROM CURRENT TURKISH PRODUCTION IS BEGINNING TO FLOW INTO ILLICIT MARKET.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 221539

DEPARTMENT WISHES TO PROVIDE MORE DEFINITIVE RESPONSE, IF AVAILABLE, THAN THAT CITED ABOVE FOR USE BY DEPUTY SECRETARY. ROBINSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INSTRUCTIONS, OPIUM, DRUG CONTROL, AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION, THE PRESS, DRUG SEIZURES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 08 SEP 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: saccheem
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976STATE221539
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: MLAWRENCE:OSG
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760338-1064
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760981/aaaacrli.tel
Line Count: 110
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ORIGIN SNM
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: saccheem
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12 MAY 2004 by greeneet>; APPROVED <13 SEP 2004 by saccheem>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SEIZURE IN EGYPT OF ALLEGED TURKISH OPIUM
TAGS: SNAR, TU, US
To: ANKARA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006